

Norman Galaxy of Writers

Formed in March, 1969

Affiliated with

Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc.

WriteLine



OCT. 3RD MEETING

Carol Hamilton "Words: The Writer's Tool"

October 3, 2009, at 10 a.m.

McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church,
University and Apache

"Words: The Writer's Tool" will be the topic for one of Oklahoma's wonderful writers. Carol is a former Poet Laureate of Oklahoma and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize five times. Her fourteenth book, a new poetry chapbook, *CONTRAPUNTAL*, Finishing Line Press, will be published in 2009. She has won a Southwest Book Award, an Oklahoma Book Award, Cherubim Award, Chiron Review Chapbook Award, David Ray Poetry Prize, the Byline Literary Awards for both short story and poetry, and the Warren Keith Poetry Prize. She is a former elementary school teacher, college and university professor, and currently translates at a clinic for women and children for medical teams to Latino countries. She has nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2007.

She has published in *THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR*, *REVISTA INTERAMERICANA*, *ATLANTA REVIEW*, *NEW YORK QUARTERLY*, *WORLD LITERATURE TODAY*, *NIMROD*, *CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY*, *SOJOURNERS*, *MIDWEST QUARTERLY REVIEW*, *POEM HURRICANE REVIEW*, *XAVIER REVIEW*, *HAWAII REVIEW*, *SOUTHWEST AMERICAN LITERATURE*, *OKLAHOMA TODAY*, *DISTILLERY*, *PHOEBE*, *CIDER PRESS REVIEW*, *PINYON*, *CHIRON REVIEW*, *POET LORE*, *KARAMU*, *ABBEY*, *TEXAS POETRY CALENDAR*, *ASTRONOMY*, *STAR DATE*, *HUMPTY DUMPTY*, and others.

We are so fortunate to have this outstanding author. You can tell from her many publications and awards that she knows something about her topic, "Words: The Writer's Tool".

If you have questions, please call Sherry Bynum, Vice-President and Program Chair, 405-364-7818.

SPEAKER NOTES BY KATHLEEN PARK

The Art of Bill Williams

Bill Williams calls himself a graphic designer and a storyteller who now travels all over world taking photos and writing. He retired early after "a great 24 years at OU," where he headed a department with a staff of nine; some of them writers and editors.



He brought six beautiful photos to show us. "If a picture is worth ten thousand words," he said, "then you have 60,000 words in these photographs." Williams likes to tell about the emotions and circumstances of his pictures. Often he attaches a little description of the place and time, what made him take the picture, etc. He has

been lucky to often catch just the right light, subject or circumstance that he could never plan or pose so well. He says he enjoys taking "people pictures."

Among those he showed us was one of a young man standing inside an arched veranda looking up at the history written on a wall. Williams had only a second to shoot. He pointed out the reflections on the floor and the slanting light. Another showed a girl with a basket who passed the Antigua doorway he was studying for its shadows just at the moment he could shoot.

Most of Bill's presentation centered on the adventures and unexpected opportunities in Mexico. He and a friend, Dick Hancock, had planned to follow the Lewis and Clark Trail, taking photos. They hoped to interest the publications director at Cowboy Hall of Fame, but she turned them down. As they started to leave, she asked them to photograph and report about ranching in Mexico for its Persimmon Press.

They approached the Chihuahua governor, Patricio Martinez, whom they had known when he was a book-seller, to ask what ranch he would recommend. He replied that he owned three and they could choose. They spent five or six days on the governor's ranch with his consultant as guide. When they were ready to leave and went to thank Martinez, Bill gave him a coffee table book about OK. He looked at it and asked Bill to do one for Mexico and would he please start immediately.

Bill had done a coffee table book when at OU, but now, without Spanish (or his OU staff), he felt as if he

MARKETS BY ANN CHAMPEAU

Poetry for Pure Pleasure

With our October speaker being a well-known poet, it seems natural to write a column about being a poet. These comments are inspired by the March 13, 2008 Writer's Relief newsletter, ronnie@writersrelief.com.

Poets often find that they must first imitate what has come before them until their own voice begins to come through. Here are a few tips on fostering that voice:

Read collections of contemporary poetry, attend readings, subscribe to poetry journals.

Imitate - not plagiarize - the works you admire.

Avoid cliches.

Make each word count.

Imagery. Let the poem's image appeal to the senses - sound, sight, taste, smell, touch - through metaphors, similes or descriptive words.

Don't overexplain.

Take risks. Tackle difficult subjects. Try humor, satire, irony to make dull subject matter come to life.

Write naturally. While the poetry of a hundred years ago may be appealing, write for modern audiences.

Grammar & punctuation. Poetry is free of the usual constraint of writing rules. Line structure provides natural breaks without commas or periods and the author has free reign over other matters of style. If it works for the poem, the grammar police will turn the other cheek.

Form. Study the different forms and choose the form you think your poem will fit.

Enjoy yourself. Write poetry for the sheer pleasure of it.

NOW, ENTER YOUR POEMS IN THE 2009 GALAXY CONTEST.

—Ann Champeau, *Markets*

Bill Williams, continued from page 1

were "in a bubble." Despite Bill's initial hesitation, he found himself back in Mexico seven days later. Using photos from the governor's ranch, he made up a dummy and slide presentation. The project was approved. He told about flying over Copper Canyon, strapped in a helicopter and hanging outside of it to shoot. He feared he would get sick, but didn't because he was so excited. When he started laying out the book, he said, the fun was in choosing." Having a coffee table book produced by someone else with your name on it is a pinnacle," he said, "and one would be enough for anybody. But it got out of control" and he ended up doing eight books for the Mexican governor.

Bill answered questions about cameras, film, and the process of finding publishers, choosing paper, etc.

—Kathleen Norris Park, *Speaker Notes*

MINUTES BY JOE ELLEN BURNETT

Sept. Minutes

After the one minute warning, the meeting was called to order by President Madelaine Culp. There were 19 members present, with two visiting guests from an Oklahoma City Club.

Assignment

President Culp said, "This is a writers group and that is exactly what we are going to do. I want everybody to write an opening line of whatever subject you wish. The purpose is that the opening line should be one that an editor would think, 'I want to read more.' This will be a contest. There is paper and pencil by your chair. At any time during the meeting put your thoughts down and when finished, raise your hand and one of our helpers will pick it up." At this point, she introduced her granddaughter and her granddaughter's friend, as the helpers.

Reports

August minutes by Dion Mayes-Burnett were read and approved.

President Culp noted that Galaxy now has a microphone system which she had purchased as per the vote of the ember. Bill Ross assisted in the selection. Her son, Greg Palmer, who is an audio technician was on hand to install and instruct in the use of the new system.

Lynn Wendelbo gave the Treasurer's report. August Balance, \$1083.14. Expenses: Norman Art Council, \$25; and WriteLine, Duchon, \$12.97; September Balance, \$1045.17.

Kathleen Park, reporting on Friday Writers, stated that the group is going great with 17 members present at the last meeting. They are involved in writing everything from Sci-fi to Romance novels.

Mark Hardick, last years Creme de la Creme winner, is the 2009 Galaxy Writing Contest chair. He reported that five entries have already been received. The Deadline is the November 7th meeting.

New Business

Contests. Should they be open to the public or limited to members only? Prizes for the contest: Could entry fees be eliminated by securing sponsors? Discussion was varied and vocal. Kathleen Park was asked to chair a committee, with assistance from Russ Long to further discuss these proposals and report back.

Program

Bill Williams, worked for the University of Oklahoma as the Art Director for the university's publications' office as a graphic designer, photographer and illustrator for many years. Bill's photography is featured in two Mexico guidebooks. His latest project is a series of eight photographic coffee-table books on the State of Chihuahua, Mexico. Several were there at the meeting. The photo books are also on exhibit in several museums.

President Culp reminded members of the upcoming Writers Contest and December pot luck.

—Joe Ellen Bennett, *Substitute Secretary*

BRAG SHEET

Sales and Acceptances

KATHLEEN NORRIS PARK: WROTE article for *The Journal Record*, still under review; PRODUCED monthly newsletter for Baha'is of Norman; EDITED article for Tami Bart that was then published in the "Devotional" slot on Religion page of *Norman Transcript*.

FRANCES SEARCEY: PUBLISHED: Poem (untitled) in the *Mature Living* (10/09).

HELEN DUCHON: PRODUCED: Newsletters: University Womens Association, *UWA*, (9/09); Friends of Norman Library, *Among Friends*, (8/09); and Galaxy's *WriteLine*, (7/09, 8/09, 9/09).

STAN SOLLOWAY: SOLD: New Book *SPORTS FANS ARE CRAZY!* will be out middle October.

STAN SOLLOWAY: COLUMNS: *Silliman on Sports* **MIKE KRAWCZYK:** CARTOONS: *Silliman on Sports* Columns for September:

8/26 **A Roller Coaster Fashioned After Dale Earnhardt** http://sillimanonsports.com/Earnhardt_roller-coaster.html

9/01 **Dutch Teen Wants to Sail World; State Won't Let her** http://http://sillimanonsports.com/Laura_Dekker_World_Cruise.html

9/08 **Went to BYU / OU game Here's Stadium Report** <http://sillimanonsports.com/JerryWorld.html>

9/16 **Transgendered Race Car Driver Has Exciting New Book** http://sillimanonsports.com/OConnell_Dangerous_Curves.html

9/22 **Sports Tee Shirts Boost Economy** http://sillimanonsports.com/Smack_Tees_Stimulate_Economy.html

Professional Activities

ANN CHAMPEAU presented "Journaling, a Boost for the Brain" to the Cancer Support Group at Norman Regional Hospital.

JUDY HOWARD and other quilters has many book signings scheduled for *Thanking Our Troops—God Bless America Touring Quilts* and shows for some of the 200 quilts featured in the book:

8/19 Showed viewers some of the 200 quilts to be exhibited at the book debut of *"Thanking Our Troops--God bless America Touring Quilts"* at the Free Quilt Show Freedom Fest, etc. on Oklahoma Travel Net. com, on Cox Channel 7.

8/22 She and other quilt artists signed their new book at The Book Place, 732 W. New Orleans St, Broken Arrow.

8/22, at Borders Books at 2740 East 21st Street, Tulsa.

8/22, at Borders Books at 8015 S. Yale, Tulsa, OK.

8/26-28, debut at a free Patriotic Quilt Show with refreshments honoring our troops at the City Arts Center, 3000 General Pershing Blvd, Oklahoma City. Judy Howard and quilt artists signed books.

8/29, signing at Quilter's Corner, 1110-13 S. Air De-

TREASURER'S REPORT - LYNN WENDELBO

CURRENT BALANCE:8/1/09 \$ 1083.14
EXPENSES

Write Line, Sept—Duchon \$12.97

NAC dues, Roundtable 25.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$37.97

INCOME

None \$ 0.00

CURRENT BALANCE:9/12/09 \$ 1045.17

pot, Midwest City, OK during a Sew-In.

8/29, Exhibit quilts and signing *Thanking Our Troops-God Bless America Touring Quilts* at Borders Books, 300 Norman Center Ct, Norman, OK

9/5 at Borders Books, 3209 N. W. Expressway, OKC.

9/10 at Best of Books, 1313 E. Danforth Rd, Edmond, OK, 340-9202

9/21-24, The Oklahoma State Fair exhibited the "God Bless America Touring Quilts" in the Hobby Arts & Crafts Building in the Creative Arts area. Artists signed their new book 9/23, 10am-2pm.

9/26, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Judy Howard and quilt artists exhibited God Bless America Touring Quilts and signed books at Full Circle Book Store, 50 Penn Place, OKC.

9/25, Signed their books, *Thanking Our Troops-God Bless America Touring Quilts* and exhibited patriotic quilts at an Arts and Craft Show at the Northwest Baptist Church Gym, 3030 N. W. 23, Oklahoma City.

STAN SOLLOWAY: Comedy Empire Press published new book *GOLFREAKS* By Jerry King to be bound October 1st.

Contests

STAN SOLLOWAY: Won 3rd place stand up comedy contest "Funniest Person in Oklahoma" Entered three Silliman columns in Oklahoma Press Assoc. contest.

Member News

VELMA DECKER: Though in assisted living, Velma reports that she is writing- *Creation In Transition/my journey*; *Murder In Red Bluff Canyon*; *Duncan Family History*; *Little Bits Of Wisdom*, and more. [Ed. Note: Wow, Velma! You are an inspiration to us all.]

JILL BROWN's husband David had an accident in their new hometown of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Jill's first e-mail (via Kathleen Park) explains:

"Please pray for us. Yesterday (8/11/09) David collided with another cyclist on the bike path and was thrown headfirst onto a rock. He has 2 broken vertebrae in his neck, swelling just below them that keeps him from moving his arms; broken ribs; another broken bone in his back..." David has made much progress and is now in Craig rehab hospital in Denver. Jill posts updates on David's progress and friends can leave notes @ www.caringbridge.org/visit/davidlbrown. It is very inspiring to read.

Awareness in Bundles

Do you ever find that some things come to your notice in bundles or rapid-fire succession? Start thinking of buying a Honda truck, and suddenly the roads are full of them. See a new word in print—one you could swear you never read or heard before—and the next three people or magazines or billboards you see will use that very word. So it is with errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.

Punctuation & Quotes

Thrust in my face lately are several otherwise well-written sentences with the end punctuation outside the quotation marks. Fine, if you're in England. But correct American usage puts the end punctuation inside: "Nobody wants pudding," said John. John said, "Nobody wants pudding." John asked, "Does anybody want pudding?"

Now, of course, I must immediately note some exceptions. According to *The Chicago Manual of Style*, colons, question marks, and parentheses belonging to the rest of the sentence should be placed outside the quotation marks (it sounds harder than it is). Examples: Fred had three objections to "The Merry Widow"; the star, the music, the rewritten chorus. Why would Elsie insist on seeing "Rambo"? Josh

disliked the animals (Muffy in particular); all the cats hated him.

Titles as Names

Lately I've heard several people express the conviction that job titles must be capitalized. Why? Maybe they vaguely remember the rule about putting titles in caps before a name. Example: General Thompson. But "the general addressed the troops." If a title is used in place of a name, then do capitalize it: "When the general stepped up, I said, 'Wait, General, I want to speak with you.'" This poorly remembered rule gives rise to errors like these: He called his Mom. I asked for Suzie's Father. Only when such words are used as nouns of direct address are they capitalized: "Hey, Dad," Tom called. I'm telling you, Mother, the moon was blue. Come outside, Grandfather.

Of course, if you're writing for a big organization or the government, you must abide by its own style sheet. For example, the rule used to be that even the president of the United States was referred to as *president*: "The president will address the nation tonight." Now the rule is "the **President**" no matter what. Sometimes even *The Chicago* must bow.

—Kathleen Norris Park, *Watching Your Language*

WriteLine Norman Galaxy of Writers

Helen Duchon, Editor, 405-329-2485
747 Nancy Lynn Terrace, Norman, OK 73069
E-MAIL: hduchon@cox.net

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President | Madelaine Culp | 405-872-8973 |
| VP-Programs | Sherry Bynum | 405-364-7818 |
| Secretary | Dion Mayes | 405-321-4506 |
| Treasurer | Lynn Wendelbo | 405-364-7383 |
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| Markets | Ann Champeau | 405-364-0232 |
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| NAC Roundtable | Helen Duchon | 405-329-2485 |
| OWFI Delegate | Dion Mayes | 405-321-4506 |
| OWFI Delegate | Ann Champeau | 405-364-0232 |
| OWFI Delegate | Judith Evans | 405-329-4138 |

2009 Dues for Galaxy are \$15
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Mail to Lynn Wendelbo, Treasurer
4103 Northhampton Dr.
Norman, OK 73072

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CHANGES IN ADDRESS REQUESTED



October 3, 2009
10:00 AM

McFarland United
Methodist Church,
University & Apache
Room TBA

Carol Hamilton:
"Writer's Tool"